

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1 - 22 are pending.

Claims 1 – 21 are subject to a restriction requirement.

REMARKS

Change of Correspondence Address

Applicant has included herewith a form PTO/SB/122, requesting that all further correspondence be directed to the address associated with PTO Customer Account 45722.

Restriction Requirement

Restriction is required between Group I (Claims 1–4), Group II (Claims 5-6, 12-13 and 15-16), Group III (Claims 7 and 20-21) and Group IV (Claims 8-9, 10-11 and 14).

Applicant notes Claims 17-19 and 22 have not been classified as belonging to any of the presented claims groupings. Claims 17-19 were presented in the original application papers, while Claim 22 was presented in the February 15, 2005 Preliminary Amendment referenced in the Office action. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this restriction requirement, at least in favor of an Office action that classifies each of the pending claims as belonging to one of the claims groupings, so Applicant may be afforded a proper opportunity to evaluate the required restriction and elect claims for prosecution in the present application.

Alternatively, Applicant respectfully requests Claims 17-19 and 22 be grouped with the provisionally elected claims.

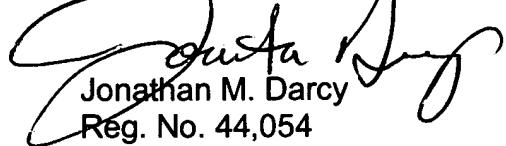
For purposes of responsiveness, Applicant provisionally elects Group II (Claims 5-6, 12-13 and 15-16), without prejudice and with traverse. Applicant traverses the present restriction requirement for at least the following reason. Applicant respectfully brings to the Examiner's attention, MPEP §803, wherein it states that "[i]f the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions." Applicant respectfully submits that examination of the entire application can be made without a serious burden and, therefore, the examiner should examine it on the merits even if it claims independent and distinct inventions.

CONCLUSION

Wherefore, Applicant believes he has addressed all outstanding grounds raised by the Examiner and respectfully submits the present case is in condition for allowance, early notification of which is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any questions or outstanding matters, the Examiner is cordially invited and requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at his number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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